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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 55

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Thomas A. Anderson

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO DESIGNATE

THE NEXT VIRGINIA-CLASS NUCLEAR POWERED ATTACK SUBMARINE THE

"U. S. S. NEW MEXICO".

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a long history of contributing to

the defense of the United States through the service of men and

women in combat and the development of defense technologies;

and

WHEREAS, this history includes the Battle of Glorieta

Pass, which turned the tide in favor of the Union's effort

during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, three hundred fifty-eight New Mexicans made up

the largest contingent to serve in the volunteer rough riders

military unit under the command of Theodore Roosevelt in the

Spanish-American War; and

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1 WHEREAS, during World War II, Navajo code talkers from New
2 Mexico protected vital military information by transmitting
3 coded messages in their native language that enemy listeners
4 could not crack; and

5 WHEREAS, one thousand eight hundred New Mexicans in the
6 200th and 515th coast artillery units courageously fought in
7 the Philippines during World War II and, after being captured,
8 were forced to march up the Bataan peninsula for ten days with
9 no food and little water, and fewer than nine hundred returned
10 home after surviving the Bataan death march; and

11 WHEREAS, the scientists of Los Alamos dedicated themselves
12 to ending World War II by developing and testing the atomic
13 bomb, which brought an immediate end to the war; and

14 WHEREAS, through the department of energy laboratories in
15 Los Alamos and Albuquerque, New Mexico remains a leader in
16 developing twenty-first century technologies that will improve
17 the quality of life of its citizens and provide for a strong
18 defense against aggressors; and

19 WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico have supported the
20 nation's military engagements designed to keep peace around the
21 world through the service of its men and women stationed at
22 Cannon air force base, Holloman air force base, Kirtland air
23 force base and White Sands missile range; and

24 WHEREAS, many submariners of New Mexico gave their lives
25 in the Pacific theater during World War II and many other New

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1 **Mexicans have served with pride and honor in the United States**
2 **naval submarine force; and**

3 **WHEREAS, naming the next Virginia-class nuclear powered**
4 **attack submarine the U. S. S. New Mexico will honor the**
5 **sacrifices made by many brave New Mexicans in fighting for**
6 **their country and acknowledge the continuing commitment of New**
7 **Mexicans to the protection of our basic freedoms and the safety**
8 **and security of our homeland;**

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE**
10 **STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States secretary of the**
11 **navy be requested to designate the next Virginia-class nuclear**
12 **powered attack submarine the "U. S. S. New Mexico"; and**

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be**
14 **transmitted to the United States secretary of the navy and the**
15 **New Mexico congressional delegation.**